

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIALCOUNTRY Hungary REPORTTOPIC 1. 1st Observation Battalion [redacted] in Cegléd 25X12. 26th Observation Battalion in Szekesfehervar and Observation Batteries in Dombóvár, Debrecen, Pétervárad and KeszthelyEVALUATION [redacted] PLACE OBTAINED [redacted]DATE OF CONTENT [redacted]DATE OBTAINED [redacted] DATE PREPARED 4 November 1954 25X1REFERENCES [redacted]PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [redacted] 25X1REMARKS [redacted]

25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. Prior to 31 December 1953, the 1st Obsn Bn [redacted] was quartered in the new artillery barracks on the southwest side of Toerteli Street in Cegléd (Q 48/O 08). In the fall of 1951, the battalion, which had been activated in Polgarai (P 48/E 08) in the spring of 1950, moved to Taborfalva (Q 48/N 78), formerly Oerkenytabor, from which it moved to Cegléd in January 1952. On 1 January 1953, the NCO school for artillery reconnaissance service, which was subordinate to the 1st Obsn Bn and held one year's training courses, was activated under authority of an order of the artillery command in the Honvéd Ministry. It had its own table of organization for the cadre personnel and was made up from the previous NCO training courses for sound-range, flash-range and photographic reconnaissance service at the 1st Obsn Bn in Cegléd, and the previous NCO training course for survey service at the 26th Obsn Bn in Szekesfehervár (Q 48/Z 00). On 31 December 1953, the 1st Obsn Bn was subordinate to the 30th Arty Div in Cegléd. 1 25X1
2. The 1st Obsn Bn was organized into the battalion headquarters, a sound-ranging battery, a survey battery, a flash-ranging platoon, and photographic reconnaissance platoon. The 1st Obsn Bn totalled about 27 officers and 200 NCOs and EM. The NCO school for artillery reconnaissance service was also subordinate to the battalion. 25X1
3. The battalion headquarters included the command group, the signal platoon and the service platoon.
4. The staff of the command group included the battalion commander, the deputy battalion commander, the deputy battalion commander for political affairs, the chief of staff, the assistant chief of staff, the party secretary, a DISZ official who was a secretary, a counterintelligence officer, an artillery ordnance chief, an assistant artillery ordnance chief, a signal chief, an assistant signal chief, a sound technician who was a junior lieutenant, an armorer-artificer who was an NCO, an assistant

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

25X1

armorer-artificer, an optician, a chemical maintenance sergeant, an electrician, a medical corps NCO, a battalion clerk, and one other clerk.

5. The signal platoon included the platoon leader, a radio squad with a squad leader and 6 soldiers, and two telephone squads each of which had a squad leader and 6 soldiers.
6. The service platoon included a platoon leader, a cook who was an NCO, 3 cooks, a tailor, a shoemaker, an administrator for the ration supply depot, an administrator for the clothing depot, and 9 drivers.
7. The sound-ranging battery was organized into the battery headquarters, a computing platoon, a sound-ranging platoon, and a meteorology squad.
8. The staff of the battery headquarters included a battery commander, a deputy battery commander, a deputy commander for political affairs, a sound technician, a first sergeant, a clerk, and a driver.
9. The computing platoon included a platoon leader, a computing squad of a squad leader and 7 soldiers, and a recording squad of a squad leader and 6 soldiers.
10. The sound-ranging platoon included a platoon leader, a telephone squad which had a squad leader and 7 soldiers, and two sound-ranging squads each of which had a squad leader and 8 soldiers.
11. The meteorology squad included a squad leader, an NCO, and 2 soldiers.
12. The survey battery was organized into the battery headquarters and two survey platoons.
13. The staff of the battery headquarters included a battery commander, a deputy battery commander, a deputy commander for political affairs, a first sergeant, a clerk, and a driver.
14. Each survey platoon included a platoon leader and three squads of a squad leader and 6 soldiers each.
15. The flash-ranging platoon included a platoon leader and three squads each of which had a squad leader and 9 soldiers.
16. The photographic reconnaissance platoon included a platoon leader and 4 NCOs.
17. The NCO school for artillery reconnaissance service was organized into the school headquarters the staff of which included a school commander who held the rank of battalion commander, a deputy school commander for political affairs, a first sergeant, and a clerk, a sound-ranging platoon which included an instruction officer, 2 instruction NCOs and 15 trainees who were NCOs, a survey platoon which included an instruction officer, 4 instruction NCOs and 45 trainees who were NCOs, a flash-ranging platoon which included an instruction officer, 2 instruction NCOs and 15 trainees who were NCOs, and a photographic reconnaissance squad which included an instruction NCO and 5 trainees who were NCOs. Trainees detached to the NCO school for artillery reconnaissance came from the 1st Obsn Bn in Cegléd, the 26th Obsn Bn in Székesfehérvár, and the observation batteries in Dombóvár (Y 5/B 16), Debrecen (R 48/K 40), Pétervásara (Q 49/J 37) and Kecskemét (Y 6/N 95). Trainees detached to the survey platoon came from these observation units and 26 artillery regiments 2

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

18. The members of the 1st Obsn Bn wore red service color and artillery insignia which were three-shell devices topped by crossed barrels. Members of technical services wore the arm insignia of their respective technical service.<sup>3</sup>

25X1

19.

20. Small arms of the 1st Obsn Bn included a variety of Soviet-made and Hungarian-made model 48 7.6-mm rifles which were issued to all enlisted men, model 48 7.6-mm submachine guns with drum magazines of unknown make which were issued to all NCOs, and Soviet-made and Hungarian-made model 48 7.6-mm pistols which were issued to all officers. No light machine guns were available.

21. The sound-ranging battery was equipped with a Soviet-made oscillograph. The survey battery had commercial theodolites made by the Hungarian optical works (MOM) and a "Zeiss Ikon" theodolite. The flash-ranging platoon was equipped with battery commander's telescopes and aiming circles. The photographic reconnaissance platoon had a Soviet "Zorki" Leica camera and several cameras of other models. The equipment of the battalion signal platoon included 2 model R-20 radio sets, a switchboard with 5 connections, and an unknown number of field telephones.

22. The motor equipment of the 1st Obsn Bn included Skoda sedan [redacted] which was used as commander's car, four 3.5-ton Csepel trucks, eight 1.5-ton weapon carriers, five Hungarian-made 1.5-ton trucks, and two Soviet-made van-like 1.5-ton trucks for the photographic reconnaissance platoon.

25X1

23. After the inspection held in the winter of 1953, the 1st Obsn Bn received the rating "superior" and, consequently, the challenge banner of the Honved Ministry which was awarded to the "best artillery unit of the People's Army".

24. From 1 May to mid-July 1953 and from late August to early October 1953, the 1st Obsn Bn was in the summer camp in the southeastern section of the Csokas Forest about 5 kilometers west of Nagykoeroes (Q 48/O 06) with the other units of the 30th Arty Div.

25. From 15 July to 20 August 1953, all observation battalions and observation batteries of the Hungarian Army, which included the 1st and 26th Obsn Bns and the observation batteries in Dombóvár, Debrecen, Pétervására, and Kecskemét, were concentrated at the Hajmáskér (P 4/D 79) artillery range under the direction of the artillery

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

reconnaissance section of the artillery command in the Honvéd Ministry. The units separately received 25 days sound-ranging, surveying, flash-ranging and photographic reconnaissance training, which period was followed by two 5-day exercises. During the first exercise which was held in the Hajmasker - Balatonfüred (Y 5/D 66) area and whose subject was "reconnaissance artillery in attack", the 1st Obsn Bn and the observation batteries from Debrecen and Kecskemét acted as reconnaissance units. At the final critique they received the rating "good". The other observation battalion and the two other observation batteries were used as mock targets and provided umpires. During the second exercise which was held in the same area and whose subject was "reconnaissance artillery in defense", the 26th Obsn Bn and the observation batteries from Dombóvár and Pétervasára acted as reconnaissance units. At the final critique they received the rating "fair". The other observation battalion and the two other observation batteries provided targets and umpires.

26. The line officers were assembled for general full-day training at battalion-level once a month. Starting in December 1953, they received 2 or 3 days special instruction in artillery reconnaissance service twice a month. These special training courses were held at the 1st Obsn Bn in Cegléd for officers of the survey units of the two observation battalions and the four observation batteries, and survey officers of all artillery regiments, and at the 26th Obsn Bn in Székesfehérvár for officers of the sound-ranging, flash-ranging, and photographic reconnaissance units.
27. In 1953, no reserve officer or reserve NCO training courses were held at the 1st Obsn Bn.
1. Comment. Another report [redacted] on the 30th Break-through Arty Div to which the 1st Obsn Bn is subordinate has been submitted. [redacted] The 1st Obsn Bn moved from Polgardi to the [redacted] area east of the Danube River, first to Taborfalva, at about the same time that the superior division headquarters moved from Ercsi to Cegléd. 25X1
2. Comment. The 26th Obsn Bn in Székesfehérvár and the observation batteries in Dombóvár, Debrecen, Pétervasára and Kecskemét are reported for the first time. Their superior headquarters are still undetermined. The present report indicates that the Hungarian Army includes a total of 26 artillery regiments. 25X1
3. Comment. The present report indicates that members of the observation battalions wear the same service color and the same arm insignia as artillery units. 25X1
4. Comment. The rifle corps in Debrecen has been mentioned in a previous report [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] 25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1